



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CENTRALIA MAN SENTENCED TO 9 YEARS FOR METH CONSPIRACY

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Centralia, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for conspiring to manufacture methamphetamine.

Kevin Edward Lea, 32, of Centralia, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to nine years and two months in federal prison without parole.

On June 1, 2004, **Lea** pleaded guilty to conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine from Jan. 13, 2003, to Feb. 14, 2003, in Boone County, Mo.

Lea is the first of two convicted co-defendants to be sentenced in this case.

On March 26, 2004, **Joyce Yvonne Reynolds**, 26, of Columbia, Mo., also pleaded guilty to her role in the conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Law enforcement officers conducted a search of **Reynolds'** vehicle on Jan. 13, 2003, and found methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia, precursor chemicals and other items used in the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine.

Approximately one month later, on Feb. 14, 2003, law enforcement officers investigated a chemical smell emitting from a room at the Midway Budget Inn in Boone County, where **Reynolds** had been staying. The Boone County Haz Mat unit was called and the adjoining rooms were evacuated. During a search of **Reynolds'** room, law enforcement officers discovered methamphetamine, precursor chemicals and many items used in the illegal manufacture of methamphetamine. They also found walkie talkies, a police scanner and a pair of night vision goggles.

Reynolds returned to the hotel room a few hours later, but fled the scene and was arrested weeks later in Columbia.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney C. Douglas Shull. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Boone County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Callaway County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, and MUSTANG (the Mid-Missouri Unified Strike Team and Narcotics Group).

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow